CLAIMS

1.   A navigation apparatus of guiding a vehicle to a destination, comprising:

5   a destination setting section of setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;

a location deriving section of deriving a current location of the vehicle;

a path obtaining section of obtaining a path from the current

10   location derived by the location deriving section as a starting point to the destination set by the destination setting section;

a data storing section of storing an information set including at least location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point on a road network, link information

15   indicating a road linked to the travel burden point, and a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver;

a point guidance data generating section of generating point

20   guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by the location deriving section, the path obtained by the path obtaining section, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in the data storing section; and

25   an output section of outputting the guidance for the travel

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burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated by the point guidance data generating section.

2. The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a travel burden point selecting section of selecting an information set of a travel burden point present within a predetermined range from the current location derived from the location deriving section, from the data storing section, based on the path obtained by the path obtaining section and the current location,

wherein the point guidance data generating section generates point guidance data based on the information set selected by the travel burden point selecting section.

3. The navigation apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the point guidance data generating section compares a reference hesitation value contained in the information set selected by the travel burden point selecting section with a driver characteristic value, and based on a result of the comparison, generates point guidance data.

4. The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the output section outputs a voice in accordance with the point guidance data generated by the point guidance data generating

section.

5.   The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the reference hesitation value is calculated and stored after the
path is obtained by the path obtaining section.

6.   The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the travel burden point is any of a bridge, an entrance of a tunnel,
a grade crossing, an entrance point of an elevated road, a point
where a road width suddenly becomes narrower, an entrance of a
mountain road, an intersection where a road on which the vehicle
is traveling intersects a road having a broader road width, an
entrance of a shopping street, a point where a shrine gate is present,
a point where a sign board or a road sign indicating that a
destination is present in a direction different from a travel
direction of a vehicle, and an entrance/exit of a parking lot.

7.   A guidance method which is performed in a navigation
apparatus and is for guiding a vehicle to a destination, wherein
     the navigation apparatus comprises a data storing section
of storing an information set including at least location
information for identifying a location of a travel burden point
on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to
the travel burden point, and a reference hesitation value
indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through the

travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver,

the method comprising:

a destination setting step of setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;

5   a location deriving step of deriving a current location of the vehicle;

a path obtaining step of obtaining a path from the current location derived by the location deriving step as a starting point to the destination set by the destination setting step;

10   a point guidance data generating step of generating point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by the location deriving step, the path obtained by the path obtaining step, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in the

15   data storing section; and

an output step of outputting the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated by the point guidance data generating step.

20   8. A computer program which is performed in a navigation apparatus and is for guiding a vehicle to a destination, wherein

the navigation apparatus comprises a data storing section of storing an information set including at least location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point

25   on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to

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the travel burden point, and a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver,

the computer program comprising:

5   a destination setting step of setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;

a location deriving step of deriving a current location of the vehicle;

a path obtaining step of obtaining a path from the 10   current location derived by the location deriving step as a starting point to the destination set by the destination setting step;

a point guidance data generating step of generating point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by the location deriving 15   step, the path obtained by the path obtaining step, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in the data storing section; and

an output step of outputting the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data 20   generated by the point guidance data generating step.

9.   The computer program according to claim 8, which is stored in a recording medium.